

Please find below the readout of President Obama's meeting with President Barzani. President Barzani is also meeting with Secretary Clinton today at 4pm. There will be a camera spray at 3:45. If you have any questions regarding President Barzani's trip, please let me know. Thanks,

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THE WHITE HOUSE

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2010 JAN 26 PM 4:14

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 25, 2010

**Readout of the President's Meeting with the President of Iraq's Kurdistan
Region Masoud Barzani**

President Obama met January 25 with the President of Iraq's Kurdistan Region, Masoud Barzani. The Vice President participated in the meeting. In his discussion with President Barzani, President Obama reaffirmed strong U.S. support for and engagement with a secure, prosperous, and autonomous Kurdistan Region within a united, federal Iraq, and lauded the contribution of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) to Iraq's development. President Obama encouraged President Barzani, as he encourages all Iraqi leaders, to take constructive action on issues that divide Iraq in order to consolidate security gains and to unlock Iraq's potential as a regional political and economic leader. The President extended U.S. good offices to help Iraqis move forward in forging a broad political consensus to resolve outstanding disagreements between the Kurdistan Regional Government and the Government of Iraq, in accordance with the Iraqi constitution and working closely with the United Nations in these efforts.

On behalf of the American people, the President extended his condolences to the Iraqi people for the bombings that occurred in Baghdad January 25. He underscored the U.S. commitment to a long-term relationship in support of Iraq and the Iraqi people.

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PRESS RELEASE

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Statement on President Barzani's meeting with President Obama

WASHINGTON [January 26, 2010] –Masoud Barzani, President of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq was received at the Oval office by US President Barack Obama on Monday, January 25, 2010.

During the meeting, President Barzani highlighted the significance of Iraq's forthcoming elections and reaffirmed the Kurdistan Region's commitment to a federal, democratic and pluralistic Iraq. Moreover, he stressed the importance for strategic long term US engagement with Iraq and the Kurdistan Region.

As outstanding issues remain unresolved in Iraq, President Barzani affirmed the necessity for Iraq's constitution to be the arbiter of internal disputes, and informed President Obama that lasting stability in Iraq can be attained if and when Iraqis abide by, and implement, all the articles of the country's constitution. He welcomed the important engagement of Vice President Biden and stated that through the deepening and broadening of the United States' relations with Iraq and the Kurdistan Region, there exists an opportunity to make significant progress on the many challenges facing the country.

In closing, President Barzani extended his appreciation for the United State's sacrifices in Iraq and for its commitment to help the federal government and the Kurdistan Regional Government to resolve the outstanding issues. He reiterated that the leadership of the Kurdistan Region stands ready to continue playing a constructive role in building a secure, constitutional and prosperous Iraq.

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